

Budget Comments Received before the City Manager's Proposed Budget

New Comments on Top

February 15, 2022

First, I hope the new city manager changes the budget format. Organizing it by some ethereal objective does not ever help me find what I am looking for. Also should not be organized alphabetically since one must often wade through dozens of little things to get to the big ones. On taxes and fees, the new city manager should know that the average homeowner saw their taxes and mandatory fees raised by 4.6% annually on average during the 2010s. So, don't let anyone tell you that tax rates tell the whole story or that the city has been fiscally responsible on behalf of taxpayers.

November 22, 2021

Compensation and pay for public safety should be priority 1 for the council moving forward. The current staffing situations in all public safety branches cannot sustain and is a direct result of not placing our staff at the top if our local comparators. As a result, hiring and retention will continue to suffer, and services will not sustain to our community.

November 12, 2021

Installing rain gardens and bioswales is a cost effective, eco-friendly, and beautiful way to implement flooding control in urban environments. I think the city of Alexandria should implement them.

November 11, 2021

Top priority for our city government needs to be the health and safety of our citizens. Sewage backup and flooding are threats to our health; this should be top priority. Also maintaining a police force and SRO presence in our high school that is protective, supportive and respectful of our citizens and students. Stop meddling with the arts and artists in our prime attraction, the Torpedo Factory! Save your renovation and ribbon cutting energies for the restored infrastructure! High end restaurants are only affordable to a minority of our population, but accessible arts and a healthy infrastructure benefit all of us.

November 11, 2021

The budget should include a reduction in the city's tax rate. And implement a policy of quickly responding to gang tagging in the community by removing it promptly.

November 11, 2021

I believe more of the budget should be set aside for maintenance, expansion, and improvement of sidewalks and bike infrastructure, especially in low-income and densely populated areas of our city. Some funds could be diverted from road maintenance and automotive-centric capacity expansion without unduly local burdening drivers. This shift of resources would improve public health and accessibility well also reducing our City's greenhouse gas emissions and toxic air pollution.

November 11, 2021

The Alexandria Police officers HAVE to have fair compensation. Officers are leaving and no one taking their spots. Less priority calls are not being dispatched due to low staffing. I live in the city; I pay taxes and I demand the services I pay for. Give them salary high enough do officers from other jurisdictions will come to work for Alexandria.

November 11, 2021

The City must make livability and affordability it's top priority particularly for our first responders. It is an existential problem when our law enforcement officers cannot get the down time/proper rest and recuperation needed to be fully functioning and alert while on the job!

Secondly, as a new home owner I do not want to deal with the reality that in just a couple of years if our spending continues on its current trajectory, I will not be able to afford to live in Alexandria.

These are top priorities!

November 10, 2021

Compensate public safety

November 10, 2021

I hope to see significant money dedicated toward transit and safe, active transportation so that projects can be accelerated. Especially important are projects that keep kids safe by allowing them to play and move on foot and bikes without fear of being killed by drivers.

November 10, 2021

Cut the nonessential projects and find the money to fairly compensate First Responders. Provide the proper fix to retain and recruit new employees (in order to continue the high level of services the citizens expect and deserve), then provide yearly raises to keep First Responders from falling behind. If you didn't neglect employee compensation for years, a 10%+ fix wouldn't be needed now. Reinstate 2020 merit increases and fix the leapfrogging issue that plagues the public safety pay scale.

November 10, 2021

I've been very happy so far with the efforts Alexandria has made to improve the livability and sustainability of its streets and neighborhoods, and I hope this investment continues!

I know there's been a lot of discussion about first responder pay vs. other priorities, and I think these can complement each other rather than conflict. I'd like to see Alexandria police focus more on major crimes and less on low level enforcement, such as traffic violations. I believe that investments in things like speed cameras can help reduce some of that burden, much more can be done through good design. Increased investments in street calming measures and ways to protect pedestrians/cyclists/scooters/etc. from motorists can continue to improve the safety of our streets and obviate the need for enforcement. I'd like to see the city put more effort into these kinds of measures to improve the design of our transportation network.